

Message Text

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10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PRS-01 PA-01 USIE-00

L-02 SS-15 NSC-05 OC-05 CCO-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 /063 W

----- 051848

O R 091045Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8508

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HELSINKI 772

FRANKFURT FOR FRDCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, OVIP, EWWT, FI

SUBJECT: AIRLINE STRIKE AVERTED: FINNAIR APRIL 10-11 INAUGURAL FLIGHT
WILL NOT BE REINSTATED

REF: A) HELSINKI 747; B) HELSPLKI 711; C) HELSINKI 365

1. SUMMARY. AIRLINE STRIKE AVERTED, PENDING RESULT UNION
REFERENDUM. SETTLEMENT IN LINE WITH TERMS OF RECENT CENTRAL
WAGE AGREEMENT. THREAT OF STRIKE CAUSED SOME DISTRUPTION OF
FINNAIR SCHEDULES APRIL 8, BUT SERVICE EXPECTED BE BACK TO
NORMAL SOON. INAUGURAL DC-10 FLIGHT TO NEW YORK WAS MAIN
CASUALTY. END SUMMARY.

2. STRIKE OF AIRLINE EMPLOYEES' UNION, WHICH WOULD HAVE
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CRIPPLED OR BROUGHT TO STANDSTILL FINNAIR'S INTERNATIONAL

AND DOMESTIC SERVICES, WERE AVERTED WHEN UNION AT LATE HOUR APRIL 7 AND EMPLOYERS GROUP --MAINLY FINNARI-- ACCEPTED COMPROMISE WAGE AND FRINGE BENEFITS PACKAGE SUBMITTED NOON THAT DAY BY THE STATE LABOR CONFLICT MEDIATOR. SETTLEMENT SUBJECT TO REFERENDUM, BUT RANK AND FILE APPROVAL EXPECTED DESPITE OPPOSITION BY ONE-THIRD COMMUNIST MINORITY IN 1500 MEMBER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC-LEAD UNION. TERMS OF COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT ARE STATED TO BE GENERALLY IN LINE WITH TERMS OF RECENTLY CONCLUDED ADJUSTMENT OF MAIN CENTRAL WAGE AGREEMENT (REF.C).

3. FINNAIR EXPECTS SERVICE TO BE BACK TO NORMAL WITHIN A FEW DAYS. HOWEVER, APRIL 8 MORNING FLIGHT TO NEW YORK AND SEVERAL DOMESTIC FLIGHTS HAD TO BE CANCELLED. ON APRIL 7 FIVE INTERNATIONAL AND TEN DOMESTIC FLIGHTS HAD BEEN CANCELLED AS FINNAIR POSITIONED ITS AIRCRAFT TO PREPARE FOR STRIKE. AS REPORTED REF. A, FINNAIR FIRST DC-10 INAUGURAL FLIGHT TO NEW YORK WAS CANCELLED APRIL 5 IN ANTICIPATION OF STRIKE AND COULD NOT BE REINSTATED IN TIME FOR PLANNED APRIL 10 TAKE OFF FOR NEW YORK. NEW DATE NOT KNOWN AND MAY NOT BE UNTIL MAY 10 OR THEREABOUTS WHEN SECOND INAUGURAL DC-10 FLIGHT HAD ALREADY BEEN PLANNED.

4. ACCORDING TO WARTSILA OY, "ICEBREAKER GROUP" FROM US AND CANADA WILL BE BROUGHT HERE BY WARTSILA ON FINNAIR'S THURSDAY AY 102 FLIGHT FROM NEW YORK, ARRIVING HELSINKI ABOUT 14.00 APRIL 11. WARTSILA PROGRAM, INCLUDING DEMONSTRATION OF ICEBREAKER URHO, TOUR OF HELSINKI SHIP-YARD AND OF ICE LABORATORY, WILL GO FORWARD AS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED WITH PROGRAM ENDING MID-DAY APRIL 15.

5. APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN FOR CONGRESSMEN IN "ICEBREAKER GROUP" HAS BEEN REQUESTED, PER CANNEY-IRONS TELECON APRIL 8. WE ARE AWAITING DECISION. AUSTAD

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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